



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 19, 2013

To: Senator David DuTremble, Chair
Representative Michael Shaw, Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

From: Chandler Woodcock, Commissioner

Subject: Letter regarding L.D. 96 in lieu of testimony.

Dear Committee Members,

L.D. 96 in summary does the following:

1. Authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt rules to allow a local conservation organization to pay a hunter a bounty of \$20.00 for each coyote killed by that hunter;
2. Provides that coyote bounties be paid from federal funding received from the federal Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act; and
3. Sets a coyote trapping season from October 15th to February 15th.

The Department would like to offer some information relating to this bill for your consideration. While we agree with the underlying intent of the bill, there are issues with the funding mechanism that are outlined below. The Department is willing to work with the Committee in their attempt to make the bill effective.

Addressing section 1 above, any organization or individual can offer to compensate or award hunters monetarily for killing a coyote already and this does occur. The Department does not need to adopt rules or statute for this to take place.

In section 2 above, the portion of the bill which directs the Department to use monies from the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to reimburse clubs for a coyote bounty is contrary to the federal regulations governing the use of those funds and would not be an eligible expense. The following federal statute clearly explains this:



521 FW 1 Eligibility Standards for Wildlife Restoration, A Portion

1.8 What are ineligible activities?

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act prohibits using Federal Aid funds for certain purposes. In addition, the rules and policies (50 CFR 80) specify certain other purposes or activities that are not consistent with the grant program purposes and are also ineligible. The following is a summary of ineligible activities: (the one listed is the one that applies to this bill)

H. Wildlife damage management activities.

(1) Wildlife damage management activities, including removal or control of predatory, nuisance, or depredating animals.

In addition to that if the Department is directed to pay for that bounty out of license dollars the Department would be ineligible to receive the benefits of the PR funding as it would no longer be in compliance with federal regulations cited below:

H. (1) (c) State fish and wildlife agency does not have control and expenditure authority over use of license fees for wildlife damage management.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact Christl Theriault, Assistant to the Commissioner at 287-1197 or Becky Orff, Secretary in the Commissioner's Office at 287-5202.